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WEEKLY BULLETIN

MICHIGAN SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS

A State Organization of The American Institute of Architects

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 7, 1950

No. 10

DETROIT CHAPTER HOLDS GOOD DISCUSSION MEETING

The open discussion meeting of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., for members only, held at the Rackham Building on February 15, was perhaps one of the most important and interesting to a large number of members that has been held in a long time. It had been suggested by President Morison and was carried out by Suren Pilafian, Chapter Program Chairman.

Fifty-six members attended and heard six different subjects discussed by as many leaders who had been requested to prepare statements to open the discussions.

Before the program proper, the records of Bob Schmertz, Pittsburgh architect, were played to the enjoyment of the members. Schmertz, a teacher at Carnegie Tech, as well as a practicing architect, has composed many songs, six of which have been recorded, featuring his own singing and banjo music. They were heard through the courtesy of Clair Ditchy, who said a few words of introduction.

The first subject under discussion, "To what Extent are Engineers and Unauthorized Persons Practicing Architecture, and what can the Chapter do about it?" was dealt with by President Morison. He mentioned the several kinds of violations and told what the State Board of Registration is doing about them. Andy has served on the Board for more than ten years. He stated that the Board was just getting organized with an investigator on its staff when the budget was cut and the investigator had to be dispensed with. The budget is now up for consideration again and there is hope that the former appropriation may be restored.

He pointed out that during the last year those who have become registered by examination included less than 20 architects and more than 300 engineers. He believes that the only hope is to appeal to the engineers to limit their practice to the fields in which they are qualified. Mr. Morison stated that architects could be of service to their profession by reporting violations, but he cautioned that only cases where definite proof could be shown would be of use to the Board.

The President called upon Professor Emil Lorch, whose long service to the profession in this state, and particularly on matters of registration, qualify him to speak on the subject. Professor Lorch was instrumental in obtaining the original Registration Act, and was for years on the Board and served as its Chairman. He was also the first President of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards. Professor Lorch reviewed our many attempts to get legislation at Lansing and stated that invariably there was opposition from certain groups. He said that we know who these groups are and that there are always compromises necessary. It was his belief that if we can't get our measures through without these compromises we had better not have the amendments.

Many members entered into this discussion and some stated that they had definite information of violations which they would turn over to the Board.

The second subject was preceded by a ballot, "On what percentage of your Private Work done in Recent Years have You been Able to Obtain the A.I.A. Recommended Minimum Fee?" The term "Private Work" was used as distinguished from public or semi-public work because on many jobs for the State or Detroit Board of Education the fee is set and there seems to be no choice. The results of this ballot showed that members were getting the recommended fee on about 75% of their work.

Mr. Pilafian led the discussion of this subject, saying that it was most un-

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fortunate for members of the Chapter to quote different fees on the same job. He believes that it is largely a matter of educating our own members as well as the building public, the potential clients. Mr. McGrew paid a fine tribute to the Michigan Society of Architects for its effort to remedy this situation. He reported that the Board had authorized a special issue of the Weekly Bulletin of November 22, 1949, which was sent to about 7,000 city, county and state officials, members of school boards and others who were potential employers of architects, pointing out the fallacy of employing on the basis of price alone. The issue carried an article by Joseph W. Leinweber, then Secretary of the Society, as well as the "Standards of Professional Conduct for Members of the Michigan Society of Architects", the "Schedule of Recommended Charges", and other information as to what a client should expect from his architect. Mr. McGrew said that Alden Dow had done more good for the profession since he had been President of the Society than members could imagine.

The third subject, "How can Architects Raise the Quality of their Services without Operating Unprofitably?" was dealt with by Leo M. Bauer. He divided his answer into two parts: Adequacy of Fee, and Responsibility. He asked, "Do we as architects pay enough attention to our clients' interests?" He emphasized that clients are entitled to the best the architect can give. Discussion brought out that an architect can do a proper job and come out with a reasonable profit only if he receives an adequate fee. Dave Williams stated that there were many examples of so-called architects' offices, at least certain "bureaus", that do not know what features

need detailing and what do not. He cited particularly details of floor drains that are standard manufactured articles. This makes the architect's work cost more and is unnecessary.

The subject of "Public Relations" was introduced by Cornelius L. T. Gabler. He felt that The Institute could do more along this line than it had done, to which Clair Ditchy gave a very good statement of the work being done at the Octagon and the Board's attitude on public relations.

George Y. Masson, one of our members from Windsor, Ont., gave a very interesting report of what the Ontario Association of Architects is doing along this line. The Association has placed a ten-dollar assessment on its members to employ a part-time public relations counsel. He also spoke of the architectural exhibit which originated in Toronto and is being shown through the Dominion. The sense of the meeting was that the Chapter Board should investigate the possibility of employing a public relations counsel.

William E. Kapp directed the discussion on "Should the Architect's Practice be Broadened to Include such Fields as Furnishings and Landscaping?" He developed his subject cautiously by stating that we should be careful about invading the fields of others if we do not want them to invade ours. However, he qualified this by saying that, without taking over such fields, an architect could and should direct such work, and that he is better qualified than any other to coordinate all of the elements of design and execution. He mentioned the fact that some interior decorators and industrial designers are taking over not only their own work but that of the architects when they remodel completely some jobs, including plumbing, heating, wiring and structural work. He gave some examples of where this is actually being done.

Ed Rosella handled one of the most successful discussions, that on "How can the Chapter help the Young Architect to get Started?" Again the question of fees was uppermost, in this discussion. He asked the question as to whether the young man would be justified in asking a lower fee to get started, or whether he would be considered unethical. The consensus of opinion seemed to be "use your own judgement".

Ed said that the usual procedure was for a young man to graduate, take a job with a large firm and hope for the opportunity of opening his own office. It was his belief that, since such a man's overhead would be less than that of the established practitioner, he could very well afford to accept a lower fee in order to introduce his services. Some members pointed out the danger that this might establish a precedent, particularly with "repeat" commissions, but Ed stated that such small jobs would not be from industrialists and others who have many jobs. Rosella

pointed out that some doctors get more because they are worth more.

Robert G. Gustafson, a member from Monroe, caused much favorable expression when he related his experiences as a "small-town" architect. Professor Lorch agreed with him, saying "That's the history of architecture. An architect has to get started somehow, and that is a good way." He suggested that we ask those established architects present how they got their start.

President Morison had to call a halt while members were still wanting to express themselves. It was nearing time to close the building. Before doing so, however, the President called attention to the coming Michigan Society of Architects Convention and urged members to attend, saying that the panel discussions were being planned along the same lines as this meeting—about the highest tribute he could have paid.

Charley McGrew did a first-class job of summarizing the discussions, which gave the members something vivid to take home with them.

The next Chapter meeting will be on March 15, with Fred N. Severud, Structural Engineer, of New York, as the speaker.

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GEORGE HOWE SPEAKS ON TRAINING YOUNG MEN

Speaking at the 81st Anniversary Dinner of the New York Chapter of The American Institute of Architects February 22, George Howe, chairman of the Department of Architecture of Yale University, asserted that schools must organize and present opportunities that the average student may be stimulated to seize. Having seized them, he may then turn out to be a competent technician and a competent artist insofar as his native gifts allow, the architect said.

Mr. Howe, guest speaker at the dinner held at the Town Hall Club, 123 West 43 Street, discussed the complaints of incompetence directed against recent architectural graduates. He stated in no uncertain terms that incompetence was by no means characteristic of the young architect. Those who do not come up to the required level of efficiency, are not made incompetent by going to schools, or even by inadequate school methods or attitudes. The schools however, must do more than place opportunities at the disposal of unusual men. It is the average student who requires the greatest amount of attention as far as education is concerned.

Mr. Howe, an eminent architect, author and educator, felt that enormous progress has been made in the education of the architect. He emphasized that most schools have attempted to bring theoretical instruction into focus with reality by having practising architects and designers on the staffs and by calling on visiting architects to serve as critics for advanced problems.

The chairman of the department of architecture at Yale said, "In the midst of all this interest in the preparation

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of students for immediate usefulness, however, we must not lose sight of the fact that the primary purpose of architectural schools is to create architects, not to prepare draftsmen for office work. Their comparative success is visible to the eye in our building. It seems to me, by and large, there are more good young architects being turned out of the mill in the United States than ever before, and more than anywhere else in the world today With this process, over-emphasis on technical preparation must not be allowed to interfere."

At the meeting, Ralph T. Walker, president of The A.I.A., was presented with the Medal of Honor—the chapter's highest award—for distinguished architectural work and high professional standing. Another feature of the evening was the presentation of the award of Honorary Associate Membership to Paul Windels, president of the Regional Plan Association of New York.

A.I.A. MEMBERS ON OAKLAND COUNTY PLANNING GROUPS

It is encouraging to note that communities and planning groups in Oakland County are recognizing members of The American Institute of Architects and that these members are acknowledging their obligations.

The Oak Park City Planning Commission has two members of the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. They are George J. Bery and Eliud J. Knapp. The same two are on the Oak Park City Planning Commission, and the South Oakland Planning Council.

On the Oakland County Planning Commission are Bery and J. Robert F. Swanson.

The South Oakland Planning Council is a confederation of communities authorized by their respective governments to coordinate local planning, to encourage comprehensive planning in the area and to employ professional services when required. It cooperates with other area and regional planning bodies working toward the development of land use and resources. It exchanges information concerning actions which may affect Berkley, Birmingham, Clawson, Ferndale, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak, Royal Oak Township, Southfield Township and Troy Township.

As an indication of the Council's functions, a record of the minutes contain a motion, in effect, that planning and zoning matters arising within the political boundaries of the several communities will be presented to the Council for consideration before formal action is taken by any community.

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JOHN F. MOYNAHAN

John F. Moynahan, founder of Moynahan Architectural Metals Co., died on February 25 in Royal Oak General Hospital at the age of 87. Born in Amherstburg, Ont., he had lived in Pleasant Ridge for 24 years. Surviving are a daughter, Mrs. G. D. Warriner, and two sons, B. John and Roy B. D.

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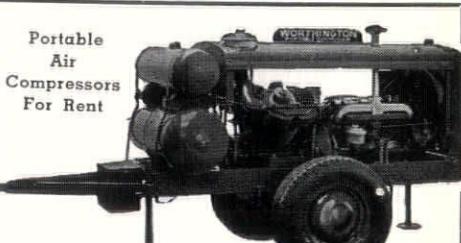
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CHPC—FUTURE DETROIT, INC.

Citizens' Housing and Planning Council has changed its name to Future Detroit, Inc. The policies, aims and purposes of the organization remain the same.

At its meeting on February 15, the Board of Directors of the Detroit Chapter of The American Institute of Architects reaffirmed its faith in this worthy endeavor by continuing its financial support as a sponsoring group. The Board further recommends that the Chapter's individual members lend their support, financial and otherwise. This they can do by becoming members and by attending meetings and taking an active part in Future Detroit, Inc.

More than before the organization needs the help of interested citizens, since the United Foundation (Community Fund) no longer assists in its support.

The Chapter Board was favored with a comprehensive report on what Future Detroit, Inc. has done and what it aims to do in the years ahead. This was most impressive and indicates the need for such an organization to bring to bear the combined influence of those public-minded people who want to see their city developed along sound planning lines.

GUDNAU-DEYOUNG CO. NEW SPEAKMAN REPRESENTATIVES

Speakman Company announces the appointment of Gudnau-DeYoung Company as its new Michigan Representative, effective March 1, 1950, succeeding the late Fred A. Schosow.

C. W. Gudnau and Ed DeYoung are well and favorably known in the building industry in this area, having had long experience in serving architects, contractors and the plumbing industry.

Gudnau-DeYoung Co. is located at 7529 St. Aubin Ave., Detroit 11. The telephone number is TRinity 5-4172.

Bulletin:

After a nine month absence from my office I found all the Weekly Bulletins. I enjoyed looking them over. Will you please renew my membership for the M.S.A. and my subscription to the W.B. Please send the bill for payment. Thanking you, I remain—Alexander K. Eugene, Chicago, Ill.

LEINWEBER, YAMASAKI & HELLMUTH, Architects have moved their Detroit offices from the Penobscot Building to 1901 Industrial Bank Building. The telephone number remains the same — WO. 5-6311.

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LORIN G. MILLER, Dean of the College of Engineering of Michigan State College, has been appointed Engineering Consultant by United States Radiator Corporation, it was announced by Wesley J. Peoples, Chairman of the Board and President of the Corporation.

Dean Miller is recognized as one of the leading authorities in the United States in the field of heating for human comfort. He is active in the program of the Institute of Boiler and Radiator Manufacturers, and is responsible for a large part of the success of the training programs in the various branches of the heating industry.

In his new connection, Dean Miller will actively participate in engineering research and development of United States Radiator Corporation products, including boilers and radiators.

CHIROPRACTIC CLINICS

Dr. Chester O. Boots, 410 West Road, Trenton, Michigan, Chairman of the Educational Board, Michigan Chiropractic Society, offers the services of his Board to architects who have commissions to design offices or clinics for chiropractors.

Available through his organization are sketches of standard layouts as well as written data on the essentials required. Suggested layouts are for one or more practitioners, from the simplest to the more elaborate. Some are suggested with living quarters above.

Copies of this material may be obtained from Dr. Boots or may be seen at the office of the Weekly Bulletin.

BOOTH FELLOWSHIP

The College of Architecture and Design, University of Michigan, announces that the George G. Booth Traveling Fellowship in Architecture will be offered again this year. There will be no formal competition in design, but upon request, applicants will be issued an application form to be completed and returned not later than May 15, 1950. This Competition is open to all graduates of the school who have not reached their thirtieth birthday on the date mentioned above. Prospective candidates should write at once to the office of the College of Architecture and Design, 207 Architecture Bldg., Ann Arbor, Mich.

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 14, 1950

No. 11

Engineer Fred N. Severud To Speak Before Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.

RACKHAM MEMORIAL BUILDING, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 1950; DINNER, 6:30 P. M.; PROGRAM AT 8:00 P. M.

Fred N. Severud, consulting engineer, member of the New York firm of Severud-Elstad-Krueger, will be the speaker before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A., at its meeting in the Rackham Building Wednesday, March 15. His subject will be "New Methods Pointing the Way in the Building Field".

Mr. Severud was born in Bergen, Norway and graduated in Civil Engineering from the Norwegian Institute of Technology. He has lectured in many foreign countries. His practice has covered a wide range of projects, as consultant to the Norwegian Government, and in the development of new methods in wall and floor construction, marine engineering, etc.

He has been the author of many technical articles in architectural and engineering magazines. His book, "Apartment Houses" (by Abel and Severud), was published by Reinhold Publishing Corp.

Concerning the trends of our times, Mr. Severud says:

"As the machine age monster is rolling along, it becomes more and more obvious that many of the present building methods will be mauled to death in its hungry jaws. Piecing together buildings by the hand of man with hammer and saw, by brick and trowel, is living on borrowed time. In recognition of this fact, we have passed a period of frenzied attempts to grasp the methods that belong to our age.

"It may be a little sad to leave behind construction methods that have created so much beauty, warmth and personalized architecture, but after paying for wars, old and new, it seems that economy has become the master in the building field, for better or for worse, therefore, I believe that the 'Frankenstein' that man has created, the machine, is willy-nilly driving him towards mechanization of the building field. It shall be my purpose to describe some methods which I believe are pointing the way to a better future for the building industry."



Mr. Severud, distinguished as a writer and lecturer, as well as consulting engineer, believes that economy has become the master of the designer, to the detriment of good architecture. In his lecture, he will point the way to better conditions in this field.

DETROIT HOST TO AMERICAN GAS MEETING

Detroit will play host to one of two major conferences sponsored by the American Gas Association's Operating Section this year. The 1950 conference is the 26th annual meeting of the group.

Host company for the Distribution, Motor Vehicles and Corrosion Conference, to be held April 3-4-5 at Hotel Book-Cadillac, will be Michigan Consolidated Gas Company. Frank J. Hall, MCGC distribution and plant superintendent, and chairman of the Operating Section Distribution Committee, is general chairman of the conference. He will open the proceedings and guide through the three-day schedule the 800 persons who will attend from all sections of the country.

Singled out for detailed discussion are these chief problems of present-day

gas utilities:

1. Rising costs of labor and the answer in mechanization.
2. The problems involved in introducing natural gas into a distribution system formerly handling manufactured gas.
3. Safety and training of gas utility employees.

Other subjects on the slate are: corrosion problems; construction and maintenance equipment modernization; care and maintenance of motor vehicles; work done on consumers' premises; and maintaining gas distribution systems.

Besides Hall, those from Michigan Consolidated Gas Company who will participate in the program include:

L. K. Richey, vice president, who will welcome the conferees to Detroit; William Fraser, experimental engineer, member of a panel discussion of problems of introducing natural gas into a former manufactured gas system; Karl Schmidt, technical assistant, who will tell how Detroit increased its distribution capacity to supply an additional 100,000 space heating customers; F. M. Rudman, who will take part in the panel discussion on vehicle garage operations.

Harry Schneider, of Timken Detroit Axle Co., will address the group on application and maintenance of axle assemblies. Another Detroiter, J. V. Bassett, of Raybestos Manhattan, Inc., will speak on brake maintenance.

COMMENTS — MIDWEST

"Architecture has taken a peculiar trend. Architects are apologizing for executed work. Who has control of this execution of the work? The Contractor? Hell, no! The architect sits on his dead rump after he has completed plans and specifications—sits and waits for a miracle to happen. Steel, glass, wood, concrete, bricks and toilet fixtures can be molded into an idea on paper. One man, the Architect, does this but later on he does not care enough about it to execute his thinking in terms of the actual construction. This designer is either sitting in some saloon spending his fee or wrestling out a new job to get in some more shekels.

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"The most important part of architecture is following up the design placed on paper. Once Architects did this. How, in the name of Old Ned, does a brick layer from the south side of Chicago know or recognize the modern 'message' hidden in the blueprints of an Architect of the contemporary Cliche Period? Uninstructed, how does he know how to give you 'floating ceilings free to extend beyond walls to echo into outer space'?

"If you do not watch a mechanic on a job of yours he will always contrive an artistic expression all his own, bearing small resemblance to your inspired intention. Furthermore, if you are an Architect at all why in the Old Harry don't you have guts enough to tear out a piece of work and have it replaced by a reasonable facsimile of your own thinking on the subject? Your mason probably goes around his pub on Saturday night saying, "Come on the job sometime, boys. I'll show you a wall built my way".

"Never relax after construction starts. The mechanics on the job are generally a bunch of guys who want to cooperate but if there is nobody around to give them a hint about the 'message' they will take a look at the clock and start doing things on their own. Sometimes this becomes important, like with masonry. The same materials, without any difference in costs, can be handled with quite a wide range of results and it is nice to know that both the Architect and the mason have the same convictions about which result is to be achieved.

"This you know. Why blow Architectural opportunities when you have them in the palm of your hands? Why this professional relaxation after the plans go to the blueprinter's? You are not the only guilty one. It is being done out here on the Coast.

"The general contractors are outboxing the Architects by getting construction in fast and playing percentage by getting approval because the Architect is too weak to condemn the work or because his contract documents are loose and flimsy.

"Are not your specs mighty enough? Have you slipped up on your notations? Maybe some of your specs are copied from old specs of an Architect who used to run his own job and not be run off it".

—Bulletin, Indiana Society
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MES CONVENES MARCH 24-25

"The engineer's job in planning for the future" will be the theme of the 70th Annual Convention of the Michigan Engineering Society, to be held March 24 and 25, 1950 at the Cranbrook Academy of Art, Bloomfield Hills.

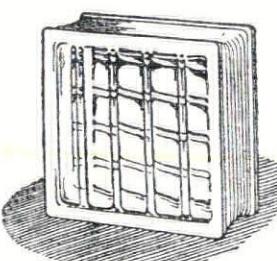
In addition to current technical topics there will be demonstrations by the General Motors Corporation and the Bell Telephone Company on recent developments in their fields.

Highlighting the convention will be a banquet on the closing evening with the Honorable Murray D. Van Wagoner, recent American Occupation Governor of Bavaria, as principal speaker.

Entertainment will be provided for all attending, with special features for the ladies.

F. ORLA VARNEY, A.I.A., has opened new offices at 3153 Guardian building, Detroit. The telephone number is WOODWARD 1-6159. There he will continue his general practice of architecture, and in addition do perspectives and illustrations in any medium, featuring a new application to architectural rendering in the field of etching on metal.

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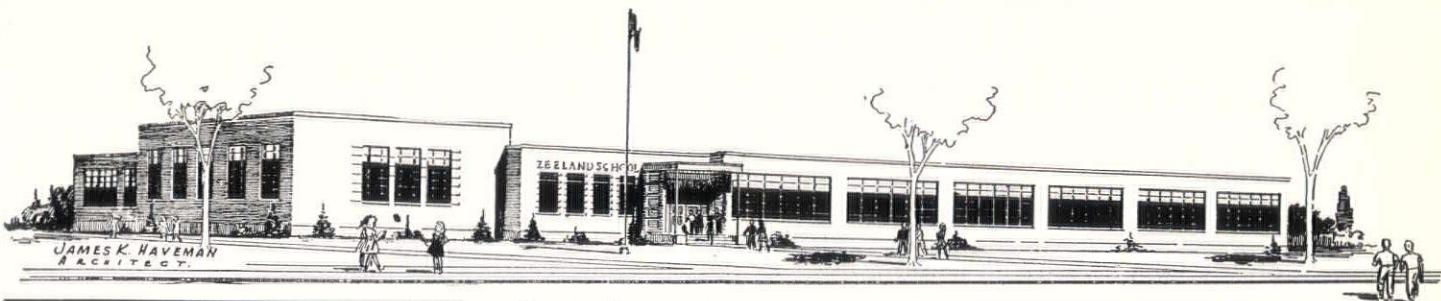


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ROCKWELL A. LEROY

Rockwell A. LeRoy, retired architect, died at his home in Kalamazoo on February 25 at the age of 85. He had designed many buildings in his city and throughout the State.

Shown above is the architect's rendering of the proposed new grade school building for Zeeland, Michigan.

James K. Haveman, of Grand Rapids, is the architect.

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NEW ARCHITECTURAL FIRM

Thomas W. Moss and Nathaniel O. Gould, members of The American Institute of Architects, announce the formation of a partnership, with offices in the Dibble Building, 320 South Main Street, Plymouth, Michigan. The new firm will maintain a branch office in Clinton.

The partners are now preparing drawings or supervising construction for new schools at Romulus, Sumpter, Clinton, Monroe county and Plymouth, along with industrial buildings in Lenawee county. They are now obtaining bids for an addition to the Daisy Manufacturing Company in Plymouth.

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ANN ARBOR CONFERENCE

Announcement has been made of The Ann Arbor Conference on THE THEATRE, sponsored by the College of Architecture and Design at the University of Michigan, to be held in the Rackham Building, Ann Arbor, April 14 and 15, 1950. Reservations for rooms at the Michigan Union may be made through Dean Wells I. Bennett, 207 Architecture Building, Ann Arbor. Ladies are cordially invited.

The following men will be among those participating in the program:

Edward C. Cole, Production Manager in Drama, Yale University; Theodore Fuchs, Theatre and Lighting Consultant, Northwestern University; Edward Hearn, Technical Director, University of California in Los Angeles; Joseph Hudnut, Dean, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; George Izenour, Designer and Engineer, Yale University; Jens Frederick Larson, Architect, New York; Arch Lauterer, Drama Department, Mills College, Oakland, Calif.; Horace W. Robinson, Drama Department, University of Oregon; G. Holmes Perkins, Chairman, Department of Regional Planning, Graduate School of Design, Harvard University.

Mr. Perkins will be Chairman of the Conference.

"EDUCATION OF VISION"

Small Lecture Hall, The Detroit Institute of Arts,
Wednesday, March 15, 1950, 8:30 P. M.

SPEAKER: MR. GEORGE KEPES

This is the last in a series of Five Evenings of Art, sponsored by The Metropolitan Art Association. Admission will be by season ticket, or one dollar for the single lecture.

Searching for a new and more functional vocabulary for the visual arts, George Kepes has divided his time among painting, teaching and experimentation with motion pictures and commercial design. A native of Hungary, he has worked in Austria, Germany and England, and for the past twelve years, in the United States. In 1944 he wrote "Language of Vision" to illustrate his theories. His work has been exhibited widely in Europe and in this country. For six years he was associated with the Institute of Design in Chicago as head of the Light and Color Department. At present he is teaching at M.I.T.

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 21, 1950

No. 12

M.S.A. 36th ANNUAL CONVENTION SETS ATTENDANCE RECORD

ONE HUNDRED NINETY-ONE REGISTERED AT CONVENTION, 1018 AT BANQUET

From every standpoint, it can be said that the Michigan Society of Architects' Thirty-sixth Annual Convention at Hotel Statler in Detroit on March 9 and 10 was one of the most successful the organization has ever held.

Chris Steketee's Western Chapter walked off with the Oscar for the best attendance, percentagewise, but the Detroit and Valley chapters were not far behind. There is no need to relate in detail just what took place, as you can read that from the program. It is a tribute to Carl Marr and his committee to say that all went according

Registration began Thursday afternoon and was followed by a get-together and viewing of the exhibits. Thursday evening members and guests were entertained with motion pictures of far-away places, accompanied by the sipping of beer or coke and the munching of pop corn, pretzels, etc. Attendance at this and all the other sessions was most creditable to the program committee.

President Dow opened the convention Friday morning and welcomed members and guests. He called upon Gus Langius to report for the auditors of the treasurer's report. Some apprehension was evidenced at having spent \$391.51 cents more than income, but when the president recognized our old friend Jim Follin, he came forward and said that he had been doing a little figuring and determined that with the Society's assets it could go on for about 26 years and eight months. So, he reasoned, "who cares what happens after that?" You will undoubtedly hear from Johnny Thornton about that.

The president in his address to the convention expressed the belief that The Institute should do more for the grass roots and suggested an annual fund of at least \$100,000 for that purpose. He mentioned as one activity the Soo Locks Centennial celebration scheduled for Michigan in 1955, in which the Michigan Society will take part. There was much discussion of The Institute's recent raise in dues and its effect on local chapter memberships. Bill Kapp was moderator on the

panel discussions and the papers presented were so good that members requested that they be published. This we hope to do in future issues of the Bulletin.

Jim Follin listed three ways in which architects could become active in city planning: by taking it up as a profession, by acting as consultants, and by serving on planning commissions. Ken Black pointed out that in most cases only one architect is included in the personnel of such a commission. He stated the belief that architects should interest themselves in other civic organizations. He mentioned that in Louisville, Ky. 16 architects out of 22 belong to the Chamber of Commerce, whereas in most cities the proportion is very small.

Messrs. McGrew and Sprau put on a lively discussion of the architects' responsibility to the young men starting in architecture. Prof. Lorch stated that the NCARB had started a mentor plan some years ago but the architects had not carried it out.

At the luncheon Friday, March 10 president Dow introduced Joseph P. Wolff, Commissioner, Department of Buildings and Safety Engineering, City of Detroit, who spoke on the proposed Basic Code now being prepared by the Building Officials Conference of Am-

erica, and outlined some of the reasons for such a code. The Board of Directors of the Society had previously considered this matter and had agreed to appoint a committee to consider the code and to work with Mr. Wolff's group.

The Friday afternoon session was handled by the Producers' Council national organization with Detroit's Bill Ogden presiding. Some new wrinkles in materials and products were presented in a most interesting and instructive way.

The Producers' Council table-top exhibits were tops in giving information of the latest in building material developments. As president Dow said, the exhibits were what one goes to a builders' show to see but doesn't see.

The banquet was the crowning event. Roger Allen was in top form, and the speaker, Mr. Upson of "Earthworm Tractor" fame was just the right kind for such an occasion. There was music and group singing and everyone had a wonderful time.

A special feature was the presentation of an award to Col. George Walbridge as the "Tried and True Friend of the Michigan Building Industry". The Colonel responded with a delightful statement of how much he appreciated the honor, and told a story fitting the occasion.

Alden Dow presented Allen with his fee, a two-pound box of Mackinac Island fudge. Allen introduced those at the speakers' table, then the speaker, and the guests sat back to enjoy this

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remarkable humorist.

Our good friend Ned Purves of The Institute's Washington office had planned to arrive early Friday morning, but because of a strike of airlines maintenance workers, he barely arrived in time for the banquet. We were glad to be honored by his presence.

RALPH W. HAMMETT, Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan and consultant in architecture and city planning at Ann Arbor, spoke recently before the American Institute of Electrical Engineers on "Trends In Modern Home Design". He gave an illustrated lecture covering the era from Frank Lloyd Wright to Buckmeister Fuller.

This was the first meeting of the Northeastern Michigan Section of the A.I.E.E., the talk being the highlight of the year's program.

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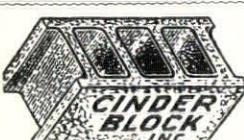
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AT MICHIGAN BUILDING INDUSTRY BANQUET



A PORTION OF SPEAKERS' TABLE

From left to right: Andrew R. Morison, Pres., Detroit Chapter, A.I.A.; Henry A. Manley, Vice-Pres. Builders' & Traders' Exchange; Edmund R. Purves, Executive Director, The A.I.A.; Col. George Walbridge; William Hazlett Upson; Roger Allen; Alden B. Dow, Pres. M.S.A.

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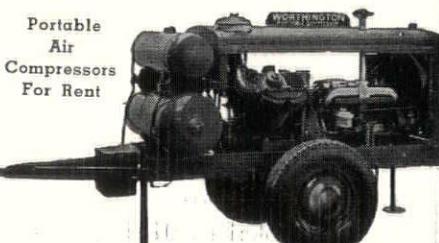
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OSCAR STONOROV TO SPEAK

Detroit Institute of Arts
Thursday, March 23, 8:00 p.m.

Oscar Stonorov, distinguished Philadelphia architect and city planner, will be the speaker at a panel discussion before a meeting of the Cornelius Corner, a medical group, at The Detroit Institute of Arts, on the evening of March 23. His subject will be "The Architect Protects the Child." The lecture is free, the public is invited. It will be held in the small auditorium.

Mr. Stonorov is not unknown to Detroit audiences. He spoke before the Detroit Chapter, A.I.A. on January 18. He is consultant to the Women's Foundation (Housing for Living), also for the Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority, a member of the International Congress on Modern Architecture, co-author of "You and Your Neighborhood".

WASHTENAW ORGANIZATION

Washtenaw County architects have been meeting at the Michigan Union in Ann Arbor once a month for dinner meetings. A number of problems affecting the Ypsilanti-Ann Arbor area have been discussed and committees set up to study the Ann Arbor Building Code.

One committee made up of Tom Tanner, George McConkey and Ralph Hammett has been studying the problem of making a few necessary amendments to the present code. It has been collaborating with the Ann Arbor Contractors Association, which has a similar committee.

At the last meeting, held February

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27th, the need for complete code revision was discussed and another committee was appointed to study the adoption of a completely new code.

Four basic codes were discussed and the committee was directed to study the basic code that has been prepared by the Building Officials Conference of America. A report will be given at the next meeting to be held in March.

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ARCHITECTS FOR HOUSING

A communication from Stanley W. Hahn, A.I.A., Assistant Director for Development, Housing and Home Financing Agency, Public Housing Administration, Detroit Field Office, 1800 Cadillac Tower, Detroit.

Confirming my announcement at the Michigan Society of Architects' meeting March 10, 1950, the attention of your members is invited to the fact that Housing Commissions in several Michigan cities have secured reservations of units and preliminary loans for the development of low-rent public housing under the Housing Act of 1949, and will be interested immediately in securing the services of qualified and interested architects for one or more of their proposed projects.

In addition to cities referred to, it may interest you to know that seven other cities have shown interest in the program but have not as yet requested a reservation of units.

Public Housing Administration recommendations to local Housing Commissions concerning the selection of an architect are covered by PHA Low-Rent Housing Manual, Section 216.1, dated October 1, 1949, copies of which are available at this office.

I am sure that the Housing Commissions would be pleased to have a list of The A.I.A. members in your Chapter.

Should you desire additional information concerning the architect's relation to the program, do not hesitate to call upon me.

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Bulletin:

From HHFA

In your December 13, 1949, issue of the Weekly Bulletin you kindly circulated information that the Detroit Field Office of the Public Housing Administration had positions open that might interest architects and engineers. You may be interested to know that we still have openings for two architects in our Technical Section and that we could use other architects and city planners in our Project Planning Section.

The positions are graded as GS-12 and pay \$6,400 per year. We need men with good educational background and experience. Our area of operation covers the states of Michigan and Ohio and some travel will be required of the project planners.

I suggest that anyone interested communicate with me as soon as possible.—Stanley W. Hahn, Assistant Director for Development, Housing and Home Financing Agency, Public Housing Administration, Detroit Field Office, 1800 Cadillac Tower, Detroit 26, Mich.

HARRY SCHULTZ APPOINTED
BY W. H. ANDERSON CO.

Harry J. Schultz has been named general sales manager of the W. H. Anderson Company, 47 West Seven Mile Road, Detroit, Michigan.

Harry Schultz began in the construction industry in 1921 and spent four years as foreman and assistant superintendent for a general contractor in Chicago. In 1926 he took his first job as an equipment salesman and sold in the Chicago district for the Dravo Equipment Company, formerly a division of the Dravo-Doyle Construction Company. During 1928, 1929 and 1930 Harry was associated with the Equipment Corporation of America, during which time he helped to move 1½ million dollars worth of the equipment used in building the Conowingo Dam in Maryland.

In 1930, still with the same company, he returned to Chicago and after a time joined the Independent Pneumatic Tool Company, first as a salesman and later as manager of the Construction Equipment Division. In the latter capacity and during the next nine years he developed a nation-wide network of distributors that also included four provinces of Canada. For the succeeding nine years, until November 1949, he has been Central Regional Manager of the Worthington Pump and Machinery Corporation, Construction Machinery Division, with headquarters in the Chicago territory which embraced the entire central portion of the United States

and parts of Texas and Montana.

Art Hinz who has been acting as sales manager for the past year has returned to his "first love" as sales engineer calling on his many friends among Anderson's customers.

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WEEKLY BULLETIN

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Volume 24

DETROIT, MICHIGAN, MARCH 28, 1950

No. 13

COMMENTS OF PRESIDENT DOW AT 36TH CONVENTION

As it now stands, an Institute member is paying a membership fee of \$40.00 to The A.I.A. in Washington. In addition, a member in Michigan pays \$10.00 to his local chapter, \$3.00 of which goes to the Michigan Society of Architects.

I am in favor of a strong organization in Washington, but actually the strength of this national organization depends upon the health of the individual architect and the local organizations.

I would like to see this Society propose that The A.I.A. in Washington set aside a substantial budget each year to be used as is judged most beneficial to the profession in specific areas. This money should be given outright to the area chosen with no strings attached.

For example, as you know, in 1955 the Soo is celebrating its centennial and the Michigan Society has been asked to help in the development of this celebration. Just exactly how, we do not know at this time, but it seems to me that here is an instance that The American Institute of Architects should be ready to contribute a substantial sum of money to be used in some way to stimulate interest and the importance of good architecture.

If The A.I.A. does not establish some sort of a program along these lines, it will end up by only producing bigger and more fancy offices in Washington, and the roots of those offices, the individual architects throughout the country, will not be benefited. This is a common growth pattern of governmental organizations, and I hope that The A.I.A. can prevent this sort of growth within itself.

Now, as for the conditions of the Michigan Society of Architects, as you have seen in the business report, it is not exactly a healthy one. It seems to me that when a man spends the time and energy that it takes to serve on this Board, that the Michigan Society should pay his meal ticket at Board meetings, but under the present budget and fee basis, it appears that this is beyond our ability.

Regardless of its bank deposit, when an organization spends more than it is

taking in, its life is limited. And that is exactly the condition that we are in. The only way out that I can see is for the Michigan Society to raise its dues, but this is going to be difficult unless The A.I.A. turns its efforts to the individual architect rather than committees and useless reports. In other words, I do not believe that architects will object to a high fee if they can realize personal benefits in return.

As I have pointed out before, there are many things that the Michigan Society could do and should do, but I don't see how we can, unless there is some money to work with.

Your Board is divided into three main committees. The Administration Committee, headed by John Thornton, with Arthur Zimmermann, Carl Kressbach and Leo Bauer; The Public and Professional Relations Committee, headed by Charles McGrew, with Adrian Langius, Lynn Fry and Peter Vander Laan; The Educational and Research Committee, headed by Ralph Hammett, with Cornelius Gabler, Donald Kimball and Peter Vander Laan.

This year all committees are working toward one end, namely the raising of standards in the profession. So far this year, we have sent out approximately 7,000 issues of fee schedules as published in the Bulletin to all school boards, mayors, city engineers, planning officials and state representatives. We believe we should now publish a business-like pamphlet stating briefly the standards of good practice. It should frankly caution clients against cheap services. It should stress the importance of the science and art of architec-

ture, for these are things upon which the future of this profession depends.

Sometimes I am lead to believe that this future is not seen by all of us. To me, architecture is the greatest of the humanities. It is based on the physical and psychological welfare of the human being and its objective is to stimulate individual human growth. The world is crying for this kind of growth and as soon as a few more see this, it will come like an avalanche.

Industry no longer sees man as a tool or a commodity. It sees him as an individual human being almost bursting with creativeness.

As you know, architecture is no longer the museum piece of a playboy, nor is it a "machine for living." It is an environment that stimulates individual human growth. When you stop to think about this and all of its possibilities, you wonder where we have been all these years. It bothers my conscience, and if something doesn't happen soon, I fear I may turn to preaching for the cause.

Now I don't want to be a lone preacher, so let's hear from all of you. Send your comments to The Bulletin and they will be published. The more, the better.

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How Can Architects Become More Active in City Planning?

By Christiaan Steketee, President, Western Michigan Chapter, A.I.A.

A talk before the Michigan Society of Architects 36th Annual Convention, March 10, 1950

With all respect to those advocating "active relationship" with City Planning, the question arises—just how much? The majority of architects operate alone or with a partner, or with a small office force, much like other independent professionals.

Everyone here knows the amount of time and effort involved in getting business, executing the daily tasks in the office besides attending civic or social activities.

However, it is necessary for an architect to have a general knowledge of city planning in conjunction with his own projects. City planning is an art by itself—architects, engineers, geologists and many more diverse talented persons, its practitioners.

The problems in city planning are difficult since the planner in his lifetime seldom more than attains laying the foundation for a beautiful and reasonable development.

Permit me to mention some personal observations and notations in the field of city planning which may be of interest enough to evoke some discussion.

In the summer of 1949 I had the pleasure of visiting the Netherlands and, through the courtesy of one of the local architects, had several opportunities to see City Planning "at work."

For illustration, I take you to the City of the Hague, the well-known Capitol of Holland. A "masterplan" was ordered and designed by one of Holland's great architects William M. Dudok. Mr. Dudok, internationally known for his schools and city halls, just celebrated his 65th birthday. He designed many public buildings until about 25 years ago, at which time his main interest

changed to city planning. In this new field he could plan in greater lines and greater objectives, with structures, streets, parks, transportation, etc. as the details.

I made some notes from Dudok's material, probably not new but different and interesting. He says: "There are two fundamentals to be remembered: (a) Man is survived by the house. (b) The house is survived by the city. The house built for your family at your age of 25, becomes unsuitable 30 years later. Your children have left, the environment has changed, only the form remains. If you build near the center of a city, the destination of the house probably will change from residential to commercial.

This transformation also affects the city, only in a much slower tempo. If the form of a city did not change slowly, investments in commercial buildings, offices, banks, etc., would not be possible. The city cannot keep pace with "modern life." Even a new city would be out of tune in a few generations. The past has to be linked to the future. Charm for the past, like love, will forgive many shortcomings. This must be respected by the city planner, who by force of progress is required to rebuild, change or cut, but remember not to condemn property with less responsibility than the surgeon in his de-

cision to operate.

The city plan must be flexible for a systematic development, governed by numerous surveys for the purpose of determining the needs.

Harmonizing all surveys into a form of beauty is planning cooperation; with architects it is three dimensional.

A beautiful city is like an orchestra.

Dudok has the respect of his fellow architects who consider city planning as important as structural, mechanical or other special work. The city planner should assist or advise the architect on not **how** to build but **where** to build.

Finally, is city planning a promising field of practice for the architect? I would say there are many good opportunities to make a substantial living in one of the many divisions contributing to planning. The requirements for a top city planner ask years of experience. Dudok started at 40, is reaching the top now at 65.

I believe accomplishments in the architectural field are more frequent. City planning is seldom completed in one generation—it is like Franz Schubert's Unfinished Symphony, glorious work while you are doing it. Our relationship with city planning, as I see it, should be practical and harmonious with our own work in the communities, and as enjoyable as our associations with other arts and sciences.

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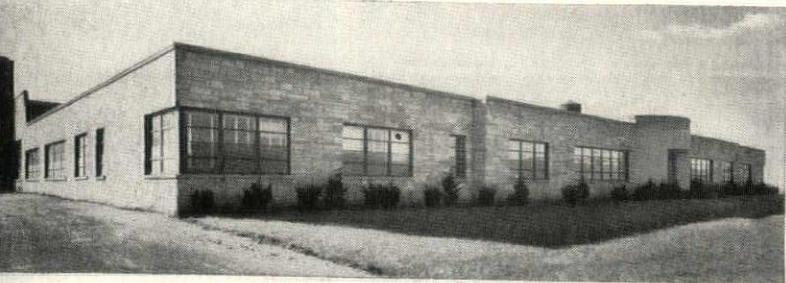


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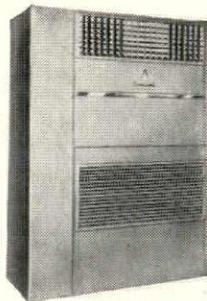
Long Island City, N. Y. and Los Angeles, Calif., provides the Fiat Company with the largest shower cabinet manufacturing facilities in the United States.

According to Fiat officials, the move was completed without any loss of production. The production for January was even 15% greater than in the same month the year before.

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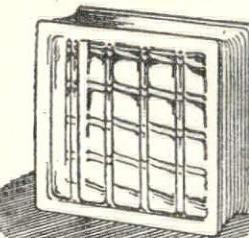
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VE. 9-3900 UN. 1-5512**WARREN S. HOLMES**

Warren S. Holmes, A.I.A., 65, prominent architect of Lansing, Michigan, died in Tucson, Arizona on March 15. Mr. Holmes was a member of the Western Michigan Chapter of The American Institute of Architects and head of the firm of Warren S. Holmes Company. He was born in Howell, Michigan on May 2, 1885. He moved to Lansing 30 years ago from Chicago, had been active in architectural practice for 26 years.

Mr. Holmes had specialized in school buildings and had been recognized throughout the nation.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Julia V. Holmes; three daughters, Mrs. Paul Younger of Lansing, Mrs. Harold Roberts of Boulder, Col., and Mrs. Harold Ingraham of Colorado Springs; three sons, Rev. Benjamin Holmes of Cambridge, Mass., Dr. Grant Holmes of Galveston, Texas, and Roger Holmes of Lansing; a brother, Orville Holmes of Fowlerville, and a sister, Mrs. C. B. Stow of Chicago.

DANIEL C. BRYANT, A.I.A., formerly of the Detroit Chapter, is now an active architect in the Chicago area. A recent inspection trip by members of the Chicago Chapter included his own home in Chicago's North Shore district.

Last year Dan joined in partnership with Nairne W. Fisher in offices at 79 W. Monroe Street, Chicago. Mr. Fisher had been active in school and institutional work in Minneapolis for more than 20 years, and in Chicago since 1925. Daniel C. Bryant practiced in Port Huron from 1941 through 1946, except for an interruption during the war.

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This makes three prominent architectural firms to locate in this building: Harley, Ellington and Day, Inc.; Pilafian and Montana, and the Smith Firm.

FROM JIM FOLLIN

Bulletin:

It was very considerate of the MSA to invite me to attend its recent convention and, especially, to give me the opportunity to take the floor for a brief statement. The most important thing I had to talk about was the present availability of advance-planning funds to local governmental units, and you will recall that Mr. Don Hatch, who is District Engineer for our Community Facilities Service located in the U. S. Customs House in Detroit, is the man in charge. He is ready and willing with all necessary information.

I thought you had an excellent meeting and certainly a most enjoyable Building Industry Banquet as a concluding feature.

Please accept my thanks and best regards.—J. W. Follin, Special Assistant to Administrator, General Service Administration, Washington, D.C.

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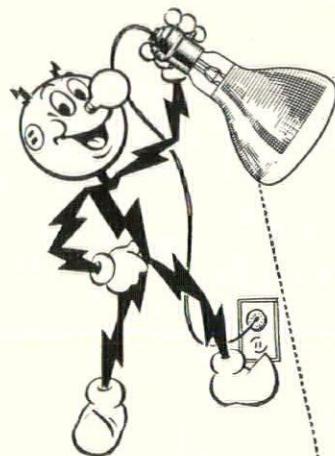
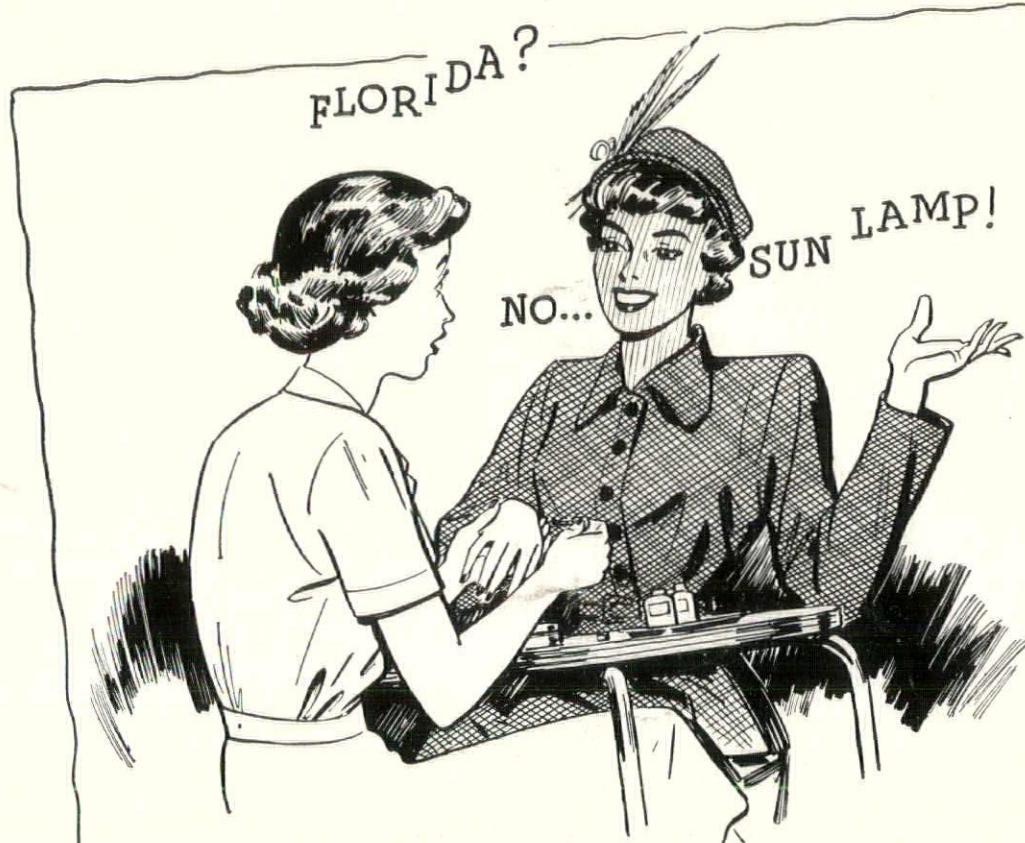
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